

NFIRS 5.0 Self Study Program Summary & Wrap Up

Objectives

After completing the Summary & Wrap Up the student will be able to:

1. Describe the benefits which Version 5.0 of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) provides.
2. Identify and properly describe the use of the Modules that are included in NFIRS 5.0.

NFIRS 5.0 is designed to be an all-incident reporting system in order to keep pace with the rapidly changing activities of the fire service. This all-incident system includes reporting for the full range of fire service incident types. Modules are included which capture additional information for fire, EMS, fire service and civilian fire casualties, HazMat, and wildland incidents.

Data Use

Data Use

Data can be used by a fire department to document its fire experience. That documentation will include information on dollar loss, injuries, deaths, fire causes, and so forth. The data can also be used to support management decisions such as the need for a new station, more personnel/equipment, or an improvement in response times.

State fire service managers use the data to develop codes and standards, guide legislation, help set training standards, and to impact a variety of other issues.

At the federal level, data can be used to identify consumer product failures, support federal legislation, develop national codes and standards, guide allocation of federal funds, and so forth.

Ease of Use

Ease of Use

NFIRS 5.0 is a flexible and adaptable open specification system. When the system is automated, it is intended that a data element can be entered one time and automatically populate all fields where that information is required. It will work with a variety of hardware and software systems.

The system is modular in design and requires the completion of only those modules necessary to describe the incident. Data is collected for all incident types in one Basic Module and other modules can be used to further profile the incident. For instance, you can report a small spill without using the HazMat Module or a grass fire without completing the Wildland Module.

Compatibility

Compatibility

System 5.0 includes a data mapping strategy to convert 4.1 to 5.0 and provide for statistical analysis of historical data. (Not all data can be convertible.)

An individual state or a local fire department, as an option, can add data elements that will provide information for special studies or other needs.

Comprehensiveness

Comprehensiveness

With Version 5.0, more precise information about classifications can be made. It can capture specific property information about multiple on-site materials and their use. This will allow identification of non-intended or illegal uses of property such as residential drug houses or laboratories.

Behavioral information is also collected. Data regarding children playing with fire, their age range, what was used to set a fire, and so forth would provide valuable information to a juvenile firesetter program.

Preciseness of Reporting

Preciseness of Reporting

NFIRS 5.0 data fields capture information beyond simple incident descriptions. Multiple factors contributing to the fire cause - e.g. drinking and smoking - can both be collected. Codes have been expanded in the equipment field. Specific items, such as a hair dryer, can now be coded appropriately instead of coding it as a portable heating device.

NFIRS 5.0 supports an extra level of coding specificity for each coded field in the system.

Usefulness

Usefulness

Information that will assist fire department managers is routinely gathered and classified. For example, information regarding detector presence, power supply, effectiveness,

operation, and reason for failure is collected on detectors and automated suppression systems.

The fire service resources - apparatus and personnel - can be collected for each incident. This information could be used for staffing studies not only at the local level, but also statewide and/or nationally.

*System 5.0
Module
Review*

System 5.0 Module Review

Module Format

The system is modular and requires completion of only those modules necessary to describe the incident. Each module in the system is designed to collect specific data.

*NFIRS 1 -
Basic Module*

NFIRS 1 - Basic Module

This module is required for every incident reported and is the only module necessary for certain incident types - small grass fires, outside trash fires, and confined to container type fires, such as "food on stove and chimney fires."

*NFIRS 1S -
Supplemental
Form*

NFIRS 1S - Supplemental Form

This form adds flexibility to any paper-based incident reporting system by expanding the amount of data that can be collected. One section of the form provides a standard means to capture name/address/telephone data regarding several persons/entities involved in an incident. The other section of the form furnishes space for additional remarks or narrative relative to an incident.

*NFIRS 2 -
Fire Module*

NFIRS 2 - Fire Module

It is required for any fire that extends beyond a non-combustible container — a building fire, vehicle fire, outside storage fire — and can be used for larger vegetation fires.

The Wildland Fire Module can be used instead of the Fire Module for wildland and outside fires.

*NFIRS 3 -
Structural
Fire Module*

NFIRS 3 - Structural Fire Module

The Structure Fire Module is used in conjunction with the Fire Module when a structure is involved. It captures information on the structure type, building information, fire origin, materials involved, and presence and operation of detectors and automatic suppression equipment.

*NFIRS 4 -
Civilian Fire
Casualty
Module*

NFIRS 4 - Civilian Fire Casualty Module

This module is required for civilian (non-fire service) casualties associated with fire incidents. Data gathered can be used to develop prevention responses.

*NFIRS 5 -
Fire Service
Casualty
Module*

NFIRS 5 - Fire Service Casualty Module

It is completed whenever fire service personnel are injured, killed, or suffer an exposure in connection with an incident (or in cases where an incident is generated as a result of the injury). Risk reduction measures can be designed and implemented by Health and Safety Officers based on this type of casualty information.

*NFIRS 6 -
EMS Module*

NFIRS 6 - EMS Module

This module is optional unless required by a state or local jurisdiction. It offers a standard means for a local fire department to capture basic information on the emergency medical services that it provides.

*NFIRS 7 -
HazMat
Module*

NFIRS 7 - HazMat Module

Another optional module, it is used whenever the Basic Module indicates “other” when documenting the hazardous materials release. A separate report is completed for each material.

*NFIRS 8-
Wildland Fire
Module*

NFIRS 8- Wildland Fire Module

This module is optional and may be used when the incident type is vegetation and other outside fires. This data will describe, in detail, wildland incidents of all sizes.

*NFIRS 9 -
Apparatus or
Resources
Module*

NFIRS 9 - Apparatus or Resources Module

Another module which can be used as a local option, it will identify the apparatus sent to each incident, time of arrival/clearance, number of people aboard, use, and actions taken.

NOTE: Either the Apparatus or Resources Module or the Personnel Module may be used, but not both.

*NFIRS 10 -
Personnel
Module*

NFIRS 10 - Personnel Module

The Personnel Module is also a local option module and some of the data may not be forwarded to the state. Personnel identification numbers, names, rank/grade, apparatus assignment, and actions taken can be noted. The Apparatus

and Personnel Modules can provide administrators with data that is useful for management strategy development.

NOTE: Either the Personnel Module or the Apparatus or Resources Module may be used, but not both.

*NFIRS 11 -
Arson Module*

NFIRS 11 - Arson Module

The Arson Module can be used as a local option to identify with precision when and where the crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its targets and perpetrators.

The Arson Module can also be used to document juvenile-set fires, whether determined to be intentional or not. This information will permit analysis of juvenile firesetting trends including intervention strategies and repeated activity.

Wrap Up

Wrap Up

This course is designed to give you an introduction the NFIRS 5.0 all-incident reporting system. Activities at the end of each module provide practice with the process of data reporting. This system is intended to completely document the ever-increasing activities of the modern fire service.

Data collected will include information on dollar loss, injuries, deaths, fire causes, and so forth. The system allows documentation of all types of incidents from fires, structural fires, wildland fires, EMS responses, to hazardous materials releases/spills. The data gathered can be used to support management decisions, develop codes and standards, guide legislation, help set training standards, identify consumer product failures, and impact a variety of other issues.

The appropriate use of the modules of NFIRS 5.0 will allow incidents to be correctly and completely documented. All the incidents that fire departments respond to can be analyzed. The data collected can improve the preparation for, and management of, future fire service responses. Ultimately, prevention efforts can be enhanced; emergency responders can be better prepared and safer; and citizens on the local, state, and national levels can be better served by using NFIRS 5.0.

ACTIVITY

REVIEW OF SUMMARY & WRAP UP

This activity will help you to review the important topics covered in the Summary & Wrap Up. During this activity, you will check your understanding of the issues discussed in this module. Work from memory as you complete this activity.

1. Describe six benefits of participating in the NFIRS 5.0 system.

2. List the names of the modules in NFIRS 5.0 and provide a brief statement about what each module can be used for.

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SUMMARY AND WRAP UP**

3. Describe six ways data collected through the use of the NFIRS 5.0 system is being used.

4. Describe at least one way that the NFIRS 5.0 data could be used that has not been mentioned.
